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October 20, 2009

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The savings from the new vehicles' lower maintenance costs will be used to increase police patrols. These funds were contained in the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009, which passed Congress with the support of Senator Landrieu and [Rep. Melancon](#).

"Supporting our local law enforcement officers with better crime fighting tools remains a top priority for Rep. Melancon and me. Stronger law enforcement agencies result in safer neighborhoods, particularly those communities that are still recovering from the devastating hurricanes of 2005," said Sen. Landrieu. "These new patrol cars represent an excellent federal investment that will assist in the safekeeping of Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes as our rebuilding effort continues."

"Hurricane Katrina destroyed not just equipment and buildings owned by the St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Offices, but also the local funding sources that support their operations," Rep. Melancon said. "The safety of these communities still depends on their sheriff's offices having the resources they need to do their jobs. This federal investment will help fill that critical need while St. Bernard and Plaquemines continue to get back on their feet."

Plaquemines Parish Sheriff I. F. "Jiff" Hingle said, **"Thanks to the hard efforts of Congressman Melancon and Senator Landrieu, these cars will greatly aid us in our strategic plan to increase visibility and keep Plaquemines one of the safest parishes in Louisiana."**

St. Bernard Parish Sheriff Jack A. Stephens said, **"We appreciate the efforts of our Congressional delegation to help law enforcement agencies do their job of suppressing crime. Receiving patrol vehicles that will be used on the front line of law enforcement is of real value to us. Faced with tough economic times that have a negative impact on our tax base and incoming revenue, coupled with the fact our population and number of businesses is below what it was before Hurricane Katrina, this fills a real need."**

St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Offices were hit hard by Hurricane Katrina. St. Bernard's department suffered a total loss of all equipment and offices. The sheriff acts as the only law enforcement body in the parish. Since the tax base for the parish has also been decimated, current tax revenues will not sustain operations of the sheriff's office. This funding will assist the St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Offices in replacing and upgrading equipment while their tax bases are rebuilding.

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